

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Curtis Keith Henry of Coalfield.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Curtis Keith Henry; and

WHEREAS, Keith Henry was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the head football coach at Coalfield High School, Mr. Henry was posthumously honored as the 2020 High School Coach of the Year by the Tennessee Titans; and

WHEREAS, a Scott County native, Keith Henry was born on May 7, 1966, to Dolphus Henry and Brenda Pemberton Henry; he graduated from Oneida High School in 1984 and attended Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Tennessee Tech in 1990, Mr. Henry returned to his alma mater as a teacher of American history; his classroom became one of the first 21<sup>st</sup> Century classrooms at Oneida. In addition to his service as an instructor at Oneida, he served as the first School to Career coordinator and an assistant principal; and

WHEREAS, Keith Henry began his coaching career at Oneida in 1989 as a volunteer coach under his former high school coach and mentor, Jim May; he joined the staff full time in 1991 and helped coach the State Championship Team in 1992; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Mr. Henry became an assistant coach for the Coalfield High School Yellow Jackets under Coach Gary Kreis and moved up in rank to become head coach in 2008. He also served Coalfield High as assistant principal; and

WHEREAS, Keith Henry's coaching record during his tenure at Coalfield includes 115 wins against only 48 losses; in 2020, he led the Yellow Jackets to a record-setting undefeated

season, garnering the most school wins in a season and making a semifinal appearance in the 1A State Championship; and

WHEREAS, it was Mr. Henry's unparalleled performance that earned him the title of the 2020 Tennessee Titans High School Coach of the Year and Coalfield High School's football program a grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Titans Foundation; he also qualified for the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year award, which honors high school football coaches who display the integrity, achievement, and leadership exemplified by Coach Shula, the NFL recordholder of the most career wins; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout Christian faith, Keith Henry was a former member of Barton Chapel Congregational Church in Robbins and an active and devout member of Mount Carmel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Coalfield, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Keith Henry enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of twenty-eight years, Pamela Japp Henry, and was the proud father of Chastin Kade Henry and Coalton Kash Henry; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and children, Mr. Henry is survived by his mother; his brother, Jared (Christina) Henry; his niece, Leeah Marie Henry; his nephew, AJ Henry; his mother-in-law, Donna Japp; his sister-in-law, Jennifer Japp; special family members, Shawn Basler, Jason Wilson, James Bales, Shelley Burgess, Grey Dad, Howard Stinnett, Matt Murphy, David Treece, Kelly Norman, Rebecca Owens, Greg Addington, and Brian Langley; all present and former members of his football teams and H2O squads; special aunts, Syble (Ervin) Stringfield, Velma (Dickie) Purser, and Eunice Henry; uncles, Ralph (Flora) Pemberton, Ledford Henry, and Winford (Betty) Henry; and a host of special cousins; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father and his father-in-law, William Japp; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Curtis Keith Henry, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Henry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.